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LETTER DATED 19 APRIL 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

It is with great concern and alarm that I have to inform you of yet another in a series of provocations that have come to constitute an extremely serious deterioration of the security situation in the southern part of the Republic of Croatia. In this regard, I should also like to recall the letter from my Foreign Minister to the President of the Security Council of 13 April 1995 (S/1995/301, annex).

Today, at 11.15 a.m. local time, a shell launched from the Serbian-held positions inside the territory of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina impacted in the vicinity of the Dubrovnik Cilipi Airport. At that moment as many as 1,000 persons were attending the opening ceremony at the Cilipi terminal building. Among those attending were many diplomatic representatives accredited to Croatia, as well as the Prime Minister of Croatia, Mr. Nikica Valentić.

Following the incidents described in the aforementioned letter from my Foreign Minister, the Serbian side took the lack of a proper response from the international community as a signal that such terrorist acts would in fact be condoned in the future as well.

Croatia is fully aware that such terrorist acts are carefully timed to occur at the time when the international community is considering new measures to properly implement the existing mandate in Croatia and elsewhere in the region. The aim is to intimidate, as well as to provoke. Croatia has shown extreme restraint in face of these terrorist acts, even when the life of its Prime Minister is threatened, but such restraint cannot be practised endlessly.

The international community must find a proper way to marshall sufficient will and resources to curtail these attacks that not only threaten the peace and security in this part of Croatia but also threaten the welfare and security of diplomatic representatives and other international personnel in Croatia. I should like to reiterate Croatia's position that this issue should be considered under the agenda item proposed by the French delegation in the Security Council concerning the safety and security of international personnel in the region.

May I ask for your kind assistance in distributing the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative